

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): A disposable brush formed of a nonwoven fabric or of a pulp molding which comprises a base and a number of projections formed on one side of said base by allowing portions of said base to project,

wherein said base is a sheet base and has a slit in the peripheral portion thereof so that said brush can be held by hand by means of said slit.

B¹ Claim 7 (original): This disposable brush as set forth in claim 6, wherein said base is rectangular and said slit is cut in the width direction of said base in the peripheral portion on each end of said base in the longitudinal direction thereof.

Claim 8 (original): The disposable brush as set forth in claim 6, wherein said slit is a cross slit and made in three positions.

Claim 9 (cancelled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): A disposable brush formed of a nonwoven fabric or of a pulp molding which comprises a base and a number of projections formed on one side of said base by allowing portions of said base to project,

wherein a water-retaining member is provided on the reverse side of said base, and

wherein said water-retaining member comprises pulp and a water-absorbent polymer, and the outer surface of said water-retaining member is covered with a cover sheet.

Claim 11 (new): A brush, formed of at least one of a non-woven fabric or a pulp molded product, comprising:

- a base formed of a single layer; and
- a plurality of projections formed on a surface of the base,

wherein the plurality of projections is formed from portions of the base that protrude from the surface of the base, and

wherein the base has a height toward a center portion that is greater than a height toward a peripheral portion.

Claim 12 (new): The brush according to Claim 11, wherein each of the plurality of projections is hollow.

Claim 13 (new): The brush according to Claim 11, wherein at least one of the plurality of projections is filled with a strengthening member.

Claim 14 (new): The brush according to Claim 11, wherein the non-woven fabric includes at least one of a spun lace non-woven, a spun bond non-woven, a suction non-woven, a heat bond non-woven, a melt blown non-woven, and a needle punch non-woven.

Claim 15 (new): The brush according to Claim 11, wherein the non-woven fabric has a basis weight of approximately 50 g/m² to approximately 500 g/m².

Claim 16 (new): The brush according to Claim 11, wherein the non-woven fabric includes at least one of a polyethylene, a polypropylene, a polyethylene terephthalate, and a polyimide.

Claim 17 (new): The brush according to Claim 16, wherein the non-woven fabric has a fineness of approximately 1 denier to approximately 100 denier.

Claim 18 (new): The brush according to Claim 11, wherein the pulp molded product includes at least one of a softwood, a hardwood, a grass, a rice plant, a reed, a paperboard, a regenerated paper, and a pulp block.

Claim 19 (new): The brush according to Claim 18, wherein the pulp molded product includes fibers having a length of approximately 0.2 mm to 40 mm.

Claim 20 (new): The brush according to Claim 18, wherein the pulp molded product includes an adhesive.

B' Claim 21 (new): The brush according to Claim 20, wherein the adhesive includes at least one of a starch and a synthetic resin.

Claim 22 (new): The brush according to Claim 21, wherein the synthetic resin includes a vinyl acetate resin.

Claim 23 (new): The brush according to Claim 20, wherein the adhesive is used in an amount of approximately 2 % by weight, based on a solid content of a pulp slurry used to form the pulp molded product.

Claim 24 (new): The brush according to Claim 11, wherein the pulp molded product includes a binder fiber.

Claim 25 (new): The brush according to Claim 24, wherein the binder fiber includes a fiber capable of developing thermal fusion during drying and pressing of the pulp molded article.

Claim 26 (new): The brush according to Claim 25, wherein the binder fiber includes a polyethylene fiber.

Claim 27 (new): The brush according to Claim 11, further comprising adjustable flaps on at least two sides of the base.

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Claim 28 (new): The brush according to Claim 11, wherein the base is impregnated with a chemical.

Claim 29 (new): The brush according to Claim 28, wherein the chemical includes a medicine.

Claim 30 (new): The brush according to Claim 11, wherein the shape of each of the plurality of the protrusions includes a frustrum of a cone.

~~Claim 31 (new): The brush according to Claim 11, wherein the plurality of~~
protrusions has a maximum compression load of at least 1 N.

Claim 32 (new): The brush according to Claim 11, wherein the plurality of protrusions are formed at a density between approximately 2 and approximately 40 per 10 cm² on the surface of the base.

Claim 33 (new): The brush according to Claim 11, wherein a pitch of the plurality of projections is between approximately 5 mm and approximately 22 mm.

Claim 34 (new): The disposable brush as set forth in Claim 11, wherein a water-retaining member is provided on the reverse side of said base.

7b¹ Claim 35 (new): The disposable brush as set forth in claim 34, wherein said water-retaining member comprises pulp and a water-absorbent polymer, and an outer surface of said water-retaining member is covered with a cover sheet.

Claim 36 (new): A method of forming a brush, comprising a non-woven fabric, comprising,

a base formed of a single layer, and

a plurality of projections formed on a surface of the base,

wherein the plurality of projections is formed from portions of the base that protrude from the surface of the base, and

wherein the base has a height toward a center portion that is greater than a height toward a peripheral portion, the method comprising:

cutting fibers;

carding the cut fibers into a web;

passing the web through heat rollers, thereby forming the non-woven fabric;

pressing the non-woven fabric between a male mold and a female mold to form a plurality of projections;

cutting the pressed non-woven fabric into the shape of the base.

Claim 37 (new): A method of forming a brush comprising a pulp molded product, comprising,

a base formed of a single layer, and

a plurality of projections formed on a surface of the base,

wherein the plurality of projections is formed from portions of the base that protrude from the surface of the base, and

wherein the base has a height toward a center portion that is greater than a height toward a peripheral portion, the method comprising:

dissolving a pulp sheet into a pulp slurry;

pouring the slurry into a mold of a shape of the brush;

dehydrating the slurry in the mold;

dry pressing the pulp molding between a male and a female mold to form the brush.

Claim 38 (new): The method according to Claim 37, further comprising beating the pulp slurry after dissolving the pulp sheet in the pulp slurry.

Claim 39 (new): The method according to Claim 37, further comprising adding at least one of an adhesive and a binder fiber to the pulp slurry.